

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black et al. in view of Anderson et al. Claims 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black, and further in view of Anderson and Global Engineering ("Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop" from IDS).

In response, claims 1 and 3-14 have been amended. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Anderson. Claim 1 has been amended. With the amendments to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "the crossbar switch creates *direct paths* between the first and second ports based on arbitrated loop primitives, *the direct paths excluding all other ports*" (emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found throughout the application, including without limitation Figs. 4-5 and accompanying description. It is respectfully submitted that neither Black nor Anderson discloses or suggests this limitation.

In addition, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position Black discloses the limitation of "[a] centralized routing table *directly coupled to each port and the crossbar switch through separate signaling paths . . .*" (emphasis added) recited in claim 1. As stated in the Office Action, the Examiner alleged that one skilled in the art would have adopted either point-to-point connection or centralized connection, citing US Patent 4,678,708 as motivation of design. However, the centralized routing table 127 shown in FIG. 4 of Black is not *directly* coupled to the ports 102, 104, 106, etc. and crossbar switch 100 through separate signaling paths. Rather, the routing table 127 is coupled to the ports *through a protocol bus* 121 (see col. 14 lines 29-31 of Black), and is only indirectly coupled to each port. As specified in Black, the protocol bus is where each port posts its transactions indicating its local FCAL net is busy or has become available so as to update the port status information in a local copy of the scoreboard table. (See col.

14, lines 32-35; col. 26 lines 56-59 of Black). The use of PCI bus is essential to Black in order to achieve a bufferless switch, as the port content and messages need to be posted on the PCI bus for synchronization and other purposes. Consequently, despite the motivation cited by the Examiner, Black in fact teaches away the option of directly connecting the routing table (router) to each individual port. Given that Anderson fails to cure such deficiency of Black, these two references, whether standing alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-cited limitation.

Because neither Black nor Anderson, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the limitations of amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Anderson has been overcome. In addition, because claim 2 depends from claim 1, the rejection of this claim has been overcome for the same reasons as provided above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 3-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black, and further in view of Anderson, and Global Engineering. Claims 3-14 have been amended. With the amendments to claims 3 and 6-8, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been overcome.

Amended claim 3 recites “wherein the connectivity apparatus is a crossbar switch that creates *direct paths between the first and second ports based on the arbitrated loop primitives, the direct paths excluding all other ports.*” Amended claim 6 recites “wherein the connectivity apparatus creates *direct paths between the first and second switches based on the received arbitrated loop primitives, the direct paths excluding all other ports.*” Amended claim 7 recites “a crossbar switch ... *creating direct paths between the ports, the direct paths excluding all other ports.*” Amended claim 8 recites “a connectivity apparatus *creating direct paths between any two ports based upon received arbitrated loop primitives, the direct paths excluding all other ports.*” (Emphasis added). Support for this limitation can be found throughout the application, including without limitation Figs. 4-5 and accompanying description. It is respectfully submitted that neither Black nor Anderson nor Global Engineering discloses or suggests this limitation.

As discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 2, neither Black nor Anderson discloses the limitation of a centralized routing table directly coupled to the crossbar switch and each individual port. Further, Global Engineering fails to make up for the deficiencies of Black and Anderson with respect to this limitation.

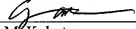
Because neither Black nor Anderson nor Global Engineering, alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the limitations of claims 3, 6, 7 and 8, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black, and further in view of Anderson, and Global Engineering has been traversed. In addition, because claims 4, 5, 9-14 depend from claims 3 and 8, the rejection of these claims has been overcome for the same reasons as provided above with respect to claims 3 and 6-8.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 491442011600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Glenn M. Kubota
Registration No.: 44,197
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
555 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, California 90013-1024
(213) 892-5752